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The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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"The Freedom to love whomever and however we want"

Year End Review: 1981's Best And Worst

Fifth Freedom Advisor

Stereotypes in Looks And Actions Questioned

Dear FFA,

I have only been out for a very short time and there is one thing that really disturbs me. I hope you can help.

Why is it that so many gay men and women fit the gay stereotype, in fact seem to try and go out of their way to fit it? I realize there are many other gays that do not fit the things that "they" say about "us," but all too often when I go out to the bars it seems that the scene could be out of a movie about homosexuals.

Many gay men are very feminine in their behavior and camp it up with the limp wrists, lisps, "hi, sweetie," routines, and every other cliché that "faggots" do. It really sickens me to see a guy that could be cute using make-up, plucking his eyebrows and really acting nelly.

Lesbians seem to do the same thing. I realize they have had enough of what "a real woman should look like," just as gay males are questioning what a "real man" means; but sometimes they seem to go overboard with their male attire, traditional male haircuts, and avoidance

of any make up to highlight their features (in moderation, of course).

It would seem that as we fight the stereotypical male and female roles that society has come to accept as the norm, we have forced ourselves to be exactly what they say faggots, dykes, queers, lezzies, fairies and homos are all about.

How can we be ourselves and find out who the real us really is?

Unhappy Homosexual

Dear Un,

It is true that many homosexuals act out a stereotype image. Men acting feminine and women acting masculine are a common sight in bars and sometimes at the various organizations.

Consider a young man just coming out and going to the gay bars for the first time. If the bar he goes to has mostly effeminate men, he quickly tends to imitate their actions.

No one wants to be the oddball in the group. We know that in any group to be accepted by that group you must fit in. If the people in a bar all act feminine then to fit in you too must act feminine.

Continued on page 7

BY ROD HENSEL

January, it has developed, is a time for review. A time to reflect on the year past, and the year that lies ahead.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," wrote Charles Dickens, in a statement that could probably be the definitive year end review for every year since the lines were first penned. But how bad, or how good, was 1981 for the Buffalo gay community as a whole?

THE DEBATE

Perhaps most significant in the year was the continuing debate over if there really is a Buffalo gay community. It was a not a debate with a formal speaker for and a formal speaker against, yet it was the undercurrent found in many discussions by gaymen and men in Buffalo.

The year was a lot like the line by Dickens. There was a unified effort for a spectacular Gay Pride Fest celebration...but it uncovered some old wounds, divisions and problems that still seem to have no solutions. Gay groups became more active and vigorous...but others slowed down as they faced the problem of maintaining momentum. The gay bar scene expanded...and then shrunk...and the expanded as Buffalo's gays left business people in a quandry over just what type of establishment they were looking for.

But the debate, the question of is there a really a cohesive gay community, was behind it all. The organizations were there, the plans were there, but in the results, something always seemed to come out missing.

THE DECISION

The year began with Gays across New York State, and indeed the nation, taking in the news that the state's anti-sodomy laws had been overturned by the State Court of Appeals.

It meant, for the first time, it was no longer against the law to be Gay. It meant that men and men, and women and women, at last were accorded the right to be themselves in the privacy of their homes.

"The makers of our constitution undertook to secure conditions favorable to the pursuit of happiness," wrote the court in its decision. "They recognized the significance of man's spiritual nature, of his feelings, and of his intellect. They knew that only a part of the pain, pleasure and satisfactions of life are to be found in material things. They sought to protect Americans in their beliefs, their thoughts, their motions and their sensations. They conferred, as against the government, the right to be let alone—the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized man."

"Protection for the right of privacy for individuals indulging in acts of sexual intimacy (by unmarried persons) and as to satisfaction of sexual desires be resort to material condemned as obscene by community standards when done in a cloistered setting, no rational basis appears for excluding the same from protection decisions...so long as the decisions are voluntarily made by adults in a non-commercial, private setting."

THE LAWSUIT

The decision was a battle won, but the war was not over. While the courts had affirmed the rights of homosexuals to indulge in sex in private, there remained the legal question of getting there. For that, the State of New York used the anti-loitering law as a weapon against Gays, a law which in the interpretation of the police and courts, still made it illegal for you to ask someone to join with you in the act that was now clearly legal.

In September, the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier filed suit in Federal Court seeking to void enforcement of the loitering law charging that it was used to discriminate unfairly against homosexuals. Led by attorney William Gardner, the suit contends that since consensual sodomy is no longer illegal, neither should it be illegal to remain in a public place to solicit another to engage in that activity.

While the Federal suit was pending, the law was also being attacked in the criminal court system. Because one person arrested under the law was willing to face the personal publicity of an appeals suit, and because of a Buffalo City Court judge's decision that the loitering law applies to gays but not prostitutes, the stage has been set for a new legal battle that could yet see the loitering law topple in the same manner as the sodomy law.

THE CELEBRATION

But all was not so serious during the year. The city's gay organizations, both men's and women's groups, finally got things enough together in 1981 to stage a Gay Pride Fest celebration that lasted an entire month.

There were gay boat cruises on the Niagara River, gay seminars, picnics, roller skating parties, discussions on being gay, a health fair and a climactic Fourth of July dance on the U.S.S. Little Rock.

The activities were social: a chance to meet new people, to build new friendships to start a summer romance, and for some, the start of a more lasting and personal relationship.

But it was also hours of effort, disputes and bickering, and resentments held in for the sake of the unity and seeing the project through.

THE COALITION

Out of the pleasure and pain of Gay Pride Fest was born the idea that perhaps gays in Buffalo could learn to work together, that perhaps it was time to try again build a community center that would really work as place for everyone.

The Gay Pride Fest events had overall, worked: they had even made money. And so began the long and agonizingly slow process began of trying to start and find a way to maintain a community.

The obstacles remained great: personal dislikes, misunderstandings, financial problems and political disputes. Some embraces the concept, but held long and bitter memories of efforts past. Now, six months after birth, the infant coalition still struggles to survive.

Continued on page 6



EMMA Bookstore will be housed in this building, 168 Elmwood near North, in February.

EMMA Bookstore: A New Home In Allentown

EMMA, the Buffalo Women's Bookstore moves to Allentown, Tuesday, February second. EMMA has a new location — 168 Elmwood, between Allen and North. There will be a grand opening celebration on Saturday, February 6th, with refreshments, a gift certificate drawing, and a 10% discount on

sales. Store hours are 11 to 7, Tuesday through Saturday.

EMMA is an information and resource center for women and offers a lending library. EMMA sells books on women's lives, health, fiction, poetry, as well as records, children's books, T-shirts, and cards. 836-8970 for further information.

The Movies: Imitation of Life?

The media has been anything but kind to gays and, to a large extent, we have allowed it to continue for too long.

For many groups, such as Mattachine, we have tried to show a positive image in the minds of the masses. In the process we have had to fight the stereotypes put forth for non-gays to see in movies, tv and on the stage.

Finally, it seems, gays that are supposed to be such a large part of the entertainment industry are coming to the fore in producing realistic pictures of what it is to be gay.

Within the next month there will be two radically different approaches to this progressive thinking in these regressive times.

First will be "MAKING LOVE" starring Michael Ontkean, Kate Jackson and Harry Hamlin. Twentieth Century-Fox is releasing the film and in a quote from a ticket package they state "It is with great pleasure that 20th Century-Fox presents **MAKING LOVE**, one of the most honest and controversial films in our long history."

From advance notices, it is a positive movie and should do well to foster the idea that gay is all right. Of course many will say that it was done strictly for the money. This may be true, but isn't it better that at least the money is doing as some good for a change?

MAKING LOVE is a love story about a young woman who learns, after eight years of marriage, that her doctor husband is attracted to men. Because they care deeply about each other, they find the courage to become stronger individuals. What's wrong with that?

MAKING LOVE premieres February 12 in the Buffalo area at a yet to be named theater. This after a private screening for the gay community and invited guests on January 18.

Secondly is **TAXI ZUM KLO** (Taxi to the Toilet). This film is much more graphic, and perhaps more representative, of what gay life is all about. The stars of the picture are lovers in real life and this is their story.

Many will say that this film puts a bad light of gay life due to the "no holds barred" honesty. This film or **MAKING LOVE**, cannot be a real picture of gay life, because we all have different lifestyles.

For a change, though, at least "our story" is being told by "one of us." This story and **MAKING LOVE** are both written by gays about their own lives. Barry Sandler that wrote the screenplay for **ML** was born in Buffalo. (Who says nothing good ever comes out of Buffalo?)

The West German **TAXI** opens February 10 at **THE ALLENDALE THEATER**, 203 Allen St., at Elmwood.

TAXI ZUM KLO is unrated, but no one under 18 is admitted. "**MAKING LOVE**" is rated "R".

In This Issue...

Bob Damron Joins Us

In this issue we present a new feature written by the national guide author Bob Damron. Each month a new city will be featured and highlights of the area will be included in photographs. We welcome Doing America with Bob Damron to the pages of THE FIFTH FREEDOM.

Rod Hensel recaps 1981 for us and looks forward the future. it was a very good, and very busy, year.

Our regular columns are here to entertain and inform you.

An 1982 begins, we hope to be able to provide a paper that is truly...A PUBLICATION FOR BUFFALO'S GAY COMMUNITY.

GAY BUSINESS IS GOOD BUSINESS

THE FIFTH FREEDOM

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January 1982

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The presence of the name, picture or other representation of a business organization or person(s), in this newspaper is not an indication of the sexual preference of such person(s), organization or business.

THE FIFTH FREEDOM welcomes the submission of news items, articles, letters, drawings, photographs, poetry and short fiction from the gay community. Announcements and releases from gay organizations are placed free of charge. Materials submitted should be typewritten and double-spaced. We cannot return any materials submitted unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and all materials are subject to editorial revision.

Deadline for the submission of all materials and advertising copy is the 20th of each month. THE FIFTH FREEDOM reserves the right to reject any materials or copy judged to be in poor taste.

Staff members of the FIFTH FREEDOM are unsalaried volunteers and additional volunteers are welcome. Advertising rates are available upon request.

Address all correspondence to: THE FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Telephone: (716) 881-5335.

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JOHN A. FAULRING JR., EDITOR

Letters to the Editor

Buffalo's Womens Liberation Union Seeks Community Comments

The Buffalo Women's Liberation Union was intrusted with a check in July of this year to be held for the Lesbian Community. This check of \$100 was issued by the Mattachine Society for the women's half of money earned from a speaking engagement at the Medical School at U.B. Because this money was not made by or given to any specific group in the Lesbian Community we were given the responsibility of holding that money.

We urge anyone who has feedback or opinions on this decision to write to us at P.O. Box 841 Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14201, and speak your mind. Barring any great controversy about this from members of the Lesbian Community we will turnover these funds to the Gay and Lesbian Community Center Coalition on Jan. 31st.

In Solidarity,
BWLU

We now plan to give that money to the Gay and Lesbian Community Center Coalition (GLCCC) in the belief that it will best serve the Lesbian Community by helping their work towards establishing a Gay and Lesbian Center for all. We are helped towards this decision by voting the participation and/or support of: Gay Rights for Older Women (GROW), the Buffalo Women's Production Company, and the Lesbian Caucus of the Buffalo Women's Liberation Union, in GLCCC.

(Editor's Note: The FIFTH FREEDOM welcomes "Letters to the Editor." Letters for submission should be typed, double-spaced and less than 300 words. Send to THE FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Letters must be signed in order to be considered for publication, however the FIFTH FREEDOM will withhold the writer's name upon request).

Out and About

"The Real Inspector Hound" Kavinoky Theater Shines

BY HANFORD SEARL

"The Real Inspector Hound"

Kavinoky Theatre

December 6

Tickets: \$6, \$5, and \$4

Rating: Three Bells

A short note about the pending uncertainty of the Fifth Freedom's future.

First of all, it's been a welcome opportunity writing for this worthwhile, monthly publication, offering opinions about concerts and plays, informing the gay community about artsy/entertainment events available here in the "Queen City."

"Out & About's" proved the diversity of events and happenings open to us all here in Western New York and Niagara Frontier, gay, straight and/or otherwise these last six months. Those cultural times will continue to be at our finger tips whether we're here to point them out, to recommend or turn thumbs down.

After all. There is much more to life besides "drugs, sex, rock'n roll." Surprise!

Also, I'd like to thank Editor John Faulring for allowing moi the space to voice views about musicals, concerts and groups. It afforded moi another dimension separate from Billboard, which I've been affiliated with six years, and more recently, the Buffalo Evening News, to be totally open about events with a tinge of sexuality.

For rock groups will continue to play Memorial Auditorium, Melody Fair will offer Vegas-type acts, Shea's Buffalo Theatre will book more national touring companies, the college scene will expand it's theatre and music scenes.

The Lancaster Opera House will house musicals and plays, hopefully the Buffalo Philharmonic will survive while the QRS Concert Series grows.

Super exhibits will still be found at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and numerous other venues, the Tralfamadore will be reopened soon at the new Theatre Place Mall in showcasing national and local jazz artists and first-run as well as foreign films will be available around the metropolitan area.

In short, we will always be "Out & About." To what extent you are and how much you take advantage of what we have, is up to you.

Life imitating art and art, life as well as actors, turning the tables on self-indulgent, pompous critics was the two-pronged thrust of Tom Stoppard's delish, disturbing 1968 comedy "The Real Inspector Hound" at D'Youville College.

Housed in the elegant Victorian ambience of Kavinoky Theatre for two weeks in December, the hour and a half send-up by Stoppard, himself a former reporter, bordered on a cross between a soap opera spoof of those 1930's melodramas where the audience cheers the hero and boos the villain and an inside-the-journalism-ranks put-down of those fearless, sometimes fraudulent reviewers.

It was that thin line of reality and fantasy where "Hound" both delighted and confused theatre-goers, Stoppard's double use of a play-within-a-play about the two critics covering an opening night.

Much to director Terry McDonald's credit, the fuzzy line of chaos was held off until the tumultuous, final scene which even Dec. 8 had most of the 10-member case, including David Miller as the Dead Body and David Lamb, as the BBC Voice, confused as to the frantic

plays' realized outcome. At least that's according to a reliable insider who worked on the production.

That aside, the two critics, portrayed by Brian LaTulip and John Buscaglia, were believable, laughable characters while at times over-acted, overshadowing the entire production's impact.

Buscaglia, as the prissy, over-campy Birdboot, his paper's top critic, was hilarious, in total control with each wince, lunging, leaning pose and long-ing gander at "Hounds" Cynthia, played to the hilt by Sharon Smith as Muldoon Manor's lady-of-the-house.

Very Miss Piggy in both her delivery and lines, Ms. Smith was the typical Victorian butterfly, fluttering, twittering while Buscaglia's Birdboot, terribly gay, for some reason was stricken with her mannerisms even though he also was married. Typically too much?

Anyhow, La Tulip was a perfect, self-inward substitute critic for his papers' number one reviewer, ever haranging against his second-string plight and Birdboot's pretentiousness and hypocrisy. (For being married and flirting or being gay and closeted? hmm!)

Stoppard loaded the two critics' dialogs with heavy ammunition, incorporating almost every known theatre cliché, ad-lib and prose description of actors, plots, hits, flops, ad nauseum.

In short, Buscaglia and La Tulip couldn't fail with that material and their capable talents.

James Hambridge, as the dapper play-boy Simon, exuded dark good looks and viable acting talents with a sexual glint in that cute-but-handsome baby face and athletic frame.

As the flightly socialite Melanie Collins-Herberger captured suitable snobility, taunting then threatening Hambridge when she learned of his gigolo-like behavior to Cynthia.

Bryan Hayes' Inspector Hound managed a flash of Peter Seller's bumbling Inspector Clouseau, forever immortalized in the Pink Panther series, and Shaun McLoughlin, as the wheel-chair bound Magnus, provided another aspect of mystery and plot development.

Rosemary Sheldon's Mrs. Drudge, the editorializing hired help/maid, was both comical and overbearing occasionally, weighted down with Stoppard's all-consuming desire to include every possible axiom about theatre asides, thrown-out lines and direct-audience appeals.

Integral to "Hound's" visual success was the authentic, well-executed interior, which created the feeling of a manor high-above the British moors, with cudos going to the set crew of David Lamb, Joan Caufield, Renee Bailey and Kathy Mitchell.

Monica Rojak-Dunn's also to-be-congratulated for her convincing costuming which also underscored the turn-of-the-century flavor when Victorians said one thing and practiced another.

In fact, the entire Kavinoky Theatre staff and supporters should be "Talking Proud" about their intimate little complex, at one-time a condemned, lifeless closed room at D'Youville.

*Upcoming events, concerts & gallery exhibits: (*denotes don't miss).*

Harvey & Corky Productions: Jan. 12-17, "Sugar Babies," Shea's Buffalo, 8 p.m. Tues-Sat., 4 p.m. Sat. and Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m., \$10-17.

Festival East: Jan. 31, The Pretenders, Shea's Buffalo, 8 p.m., \$9 and \$8.

Albright-Knox Art Gallery: Fernand Leger retrospective exhibit, \$2; main gallery showing free, donations accepted. Call 882-8700 for new gallery times. Doors now open 11 a.m. daily.

Buffalo Philharmonic: Jan. 14, 8:30 p.m., Martin Luther King Tribute, Clama Dale, sopranoist, the Catholic Central City Choir and the Gayles family \$7, \$10; Jan. 15 & 16, 8:30 p.m., Eric Knight, conductor and vocalist Diana Lynn with "The Award Winners of Broadway and Hollywood!! \$5.60, \$7.50 and \$8.50; Jan. 22, open rehearsal with conductor Semyon Bychkov and pianist Lorin Hollander, \$3 - Jan. 23, 8:30 p.m. and Jan. 24, 2:30 p.m., performances, \$4.50, \$7, \$8.50 and \$10.50; Jan. 28, 8:30 p.m., conductor/composer Elmer Bernstein with

"Music Themes from the Movies," \$6.50, \$7.50 and \$8.50; Jan. 30, and Feb. 2, 8:30 p.m., composer/conductor Gunther Schuller, \$4.50, \$7, \$8.50 and \$10.50; Feb. 5, 8:30 p.m., Mel Torme pops concert, \$6.50, \$7.50 and \$8.50.

How much would you pay for THE FIFTH FREEDOM? Advertisers pay it all!

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SELECTIONS by Sam

On Being An Insider

BY SAM

January 15th. To most of our readership that date on the calendar is not particularly significant. But in mentioning February 12 or February 22 the names of Lincoln and Washington come to mind, albeit current practice is to celebrate the births of those men on a Monday usually somewhere between the two dates. In fact, recognition of their accomplishments now takes place on a day designated as Patriots Day.

But what of January 15? It is the anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr. While some states and cities have declared that day a holiday and periodic attempts have been made to celebrate it nation-wide, prospects for that to happen very soon appear quite dim.

A short article I read about King recently made some points that struck a responsive chord in me. The writer recalled King's comments to being called "an outside agitator" when he participated in rallies, demonstrations, and marches outside his home territory. He observed that the time had come to acknowledge that no American is an outsider when injustice is visited upon other Americans. He said we are all insiders, and that cannot be taken away from us.

I want to carry his thought a little further. As insiders we cannot sit back, relax, and give mere lip service to ideals such as "liberty and justice for all." As insiders, the issues that are raised are our issues, and we are involved whether we like it or not! Here I am reminded of the idea of *Verstehen*, the German word for "understanding," and a concept developed by the sociologist Max Weber. He pointed out that much of what is social action cannot be measured or analyzed by objective criteria and that comprehension of the action

must rest to some extent on an understanding of the subjective experiences of the actor or actors involved.

More contemporarily, Roger Scruton has noted in his distinction between the scientific pursuit of truth and the humanistic pursuit of truth that humanism requires us to "cultivate the peculiar faculty of *Verstehen* which we use to understand ourselves. It is also what we use to understand the world around us."

As another year begins how do we, as gay and lesbian men and women, see ourselves and the world around us? Each new year finds me a year older and I have learned that my personal experiences do not define "the truth" of what it means to be a homosexual. Nor can your experiences offer you the opportunity to draw such a conclusion. Truth of the matter probably rests in the total of our experiences—good, rotten, uplifting, defeating, and so on. But individually and collectively our experiences are just that—they are ours and they are experiences we have had; they continue, and they affect the ways we see ourselves and the world. We are the insiders, and no one can deny our experiences.

What happens to you when you encounter a media-reported happening which has anti-gay overtones? Do you have a gut reaction as you read an anti-gay word, phrase, or "suggestion" on a wall somewhere? How do you respond when in the presence of someone who tells a joke and it has a homosexual person as the butt?

How do you present yourself—as an outsider or as an insider? Why?

Judge Refuses To Approve Gay Adoption

On November 18, 1981, New York Family Court Judge Mortimer Getzels refused to approve the adoption of a gay male by another gay male. Judge Getzels concluded that the purpose of the adoption law is to legalize a parent-child relationship and not a relationship between a gay couple.

In his decision, Judge Getzels stated, "The court is most sympathetic to the yearning of two decent people living exemplary productive lives who are seeking to obtain some legal recognition of the bond that exists between them. The relationship is no longer what it was for Oscar Wilde and Lord Alfred Douglas - the love that dares not speak its name. But a statutory mechanism for conferring status on the relationship...is yet to be devised."

The decision is in conflict with *Matter of Adoption of Adult Anonymous* decided in February 1981 by Family Court Judge Leon Deutsch. In approving the adoption of one gay male by another, Judge Deutsch held that there was no public policy reason to prevent such an adoption.

"We are concerned about Judge Getzels' decision since the adoption law does not specifically prohibit adoption under these circumstances," commented Tim Sweeney, Lambda's Executive Director. An appeal of this decision has been filed.

"It should be noted that adoption is not a substitute for marriage and is a serious legal step that should not be taken without the advice of an attorney. Where the parties have given serious consideration, the adoption should not be denied solely because the parties are gay," stated Tim Sweeney.

Blind Gays Have Resource Center

We are a group of blind and sighted volunteers serving blind people in the lesbian and gay community. We record books and a quarterly magazine containing articles from the gay media for distribution at cost to print handicapped people. Please see the enclosed brochure for additional information.

You can especially help us by making our existence known to blind people in your community who want access to information on the gay and lesbian experience. Although thousands of books and only about 100 of these are available to blind readers and many blind people are not aware of their existence. Our goal is to tell blind people about these titles, to record more titles, and to get them out to blind lesbians and gay men. We also provide a network of contacts and support to blind lesbians and gay men through *LRC for the Blind Quarterly*. We serve individuals throughout the United States.

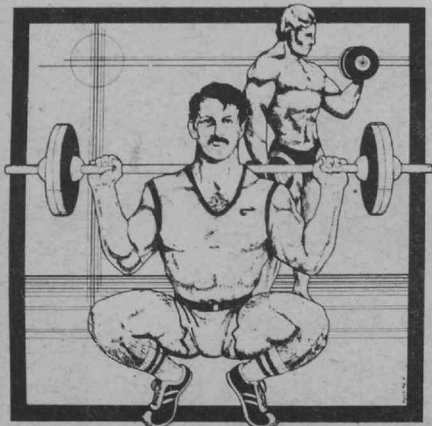
Some of the titles we have recorded are *The Joy of Gay Sex*, by Dr. Charles Silverstein and Edmund White; *Loving Someone Gay*, by Don Clark; *Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality*, by John Boswell; and *A True Likeness; Lesbian and Gay Writing Today*, edited by Felice Picano. All titles we record are solely for the use of the print handicapped and can be played only on special cassette players provided through the Library of Congress lending agency program.

Thanks for helping us get the word out!

Sincerely,
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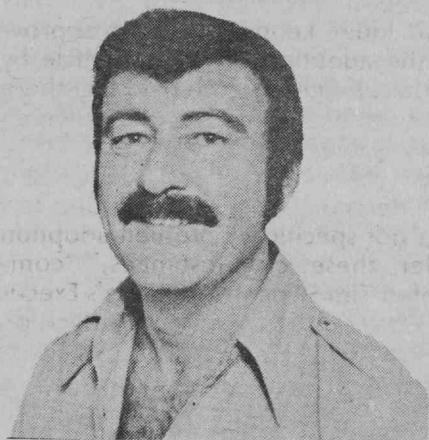
The San Joaquin Valley is known as the 'fruit basket of America...with no pun intended! Actually, about half the nation's produce is grown in this fertile valley, which stretches for some three hundred miles throughout sunny Central California. Bakersfield, Fresno, Modesto and Stockton are the major cities, and here, as in other parts of the Golden State, the bars are open daily until 2:00 a.m.

Fast growing Fresno, with a population of nearly a quarter of a million, leads the world in farm technology and production. Points of interest in the 'Garden of the Sun' include Fresno State University, Kearney mansion, cruisy Roeding Park, underground gardens and several large wineries. Fresno is the gateway to Sequoia and King's Canyon National Parks, located in the nearby High Sierras.

Since Fresno, the "Raisin Capital," is about half-way between L.A. and San Francisco...it's gay clubs can offer a rewarding stop-over! Young, collegiate type males frequent the extremely popular Fresno Express Disco & Back Room at 708 N. Blackstone, while some macho levi and leather men prefer the Red Lantern at 4618 E. Blackstone. The Palace Saloon at 4030 E. Belmont is favored by the ladies. The Steamworks at 1551 'E' St., only bath in the Central Valley, got off to a slow start, but is doing quite well now.

Over the years I have tried many 'straight' restaurants in the area with Armenian, Basque, Italian or Mexican ethnic backgrounds, but have disappointingly found them all lacking. Your best bet is one of the slick specialty chains like Ruben's, and the Velvet Turtle. Or, better yet, drive to the award-winning Imperial Dynasty & Chinese Pagoda in Hanford or the Depot in Visalia. I stay at the Smuggler's Inn, one of several luxurious motor hotels in Fresno.

Stockton is one of the State's two major inland ports...a multi-racial city of 155,000. It is home of the University of the Pacific, the oldest chartered college in California. The liveliest gay spots are Willie's, a hot disco at 4204 West Lane, and the Gay 90's, with occasional shows at 1803 Harbor. Women prefer Scotty's Den at 147 Aurora, while Rossi's is a downtown type bar...mostly down! I



stay at the excellent Holiday Inn, which has a solardome, two pools and is located right by the harbor. For good straight dining try Albert's, Castaways or Ospital's Villa Basque, which serves magnificent portions at popular prices.

Modesto, with a population of approximately 100,000, is a hot little town in more ways than one! It's two gay bars are named after animals! The Brave Bull at 701 S. 9th St. is a super disco, while the Mustang at 413 N. 7th St. has a quieter atmosphere. I stay at the Holiday Inn, which 'jumps' when the annual coronation hosts visiting courts and gay royalty. With five visits in twice as many years, the only dinner house I can honestly recommend is Carmen's, an innovative Mexican restaurant. I haven't been there, but friends tell me Richard's has good food and humpy waiters. Modesto is the gateway to the 'Mother Lode' gold country and fabulous Yosemite National Park.

Bakersfield is the smallest and southernmost of the 'Big Four' cities in the San Joaquin Valley. The brightest spot around is the Casablanca at 1927 'K' Street. This is popular with both gay men and women and features a chile-feed on Tuesdays. Cruisy areas include Beach, Central and Weil Parks. Some thirty-five miles east of here is a new gay guest ranch, called the Twin Oaks. Call (805) 867-2326 for information and reservations. Stay at the Bakersfield Lodge or Hilton Inn...and for straight dining try Maison Jaussaud or Lemucchi's Tam O'Shanter. In addition to being an important marketing center for oil, natural gas and farm products, Bakersfield is the country & western music capital of California, and hosts the western regional roller skating championships.

If you're looking for a somewhat slower pace and want to be removed from the crush of metropolitan big city life, try California's San Joaquin (pronounced 'Wah-keen') Valley. It offers an alternative with a distinctive lifestyle. The climate is hot and dry...in fact almost unbearably so during the summertime...but the rest of the year is usually delightful. The folks are fun and friendly, and you shouldn't be a stranger for long.

Book Review

"The Unlit Lamp": Radclyffe Hall 1924

THE UNLIT LAMP, by Radclyffe Hall, NY: Dial Press, 1982 (first published 1924), \$5.95. Available at Emma The Buffalo Women's bookstore 1974 Main Greenfield moving February 2 to 168 Elmwood at North.

THE UNLIT LAMP comes back from HOP ON POP, and I don't mean Dr. Seuss. This Pop stomps. The usual insensitive bore recognized as husband to one's mother. What I mean is that the damn lamp never gets turned on, because, unlike Job (and with no noteworthy case of adolescent acne), we don't see the point of the protagonist's suffering. Hers simply leads to more. You'll get no gratitude from these unreal octopi. They'll squeeze the life from you—all is grasping dependency.

These people, especially the women, let themselves get bottled, without getting wired, as they cater to the whims of sick family, a plague of locusts. The mother, Mary Ogden—what a villain—what a mass of diurnal, eternal needs. How believable, how convincing, especially when you visualize your mother (any mother) getting like her mother and then sharpening the edges of vague inconsiderations.

The protagonist, Joan Ogden, is ultimately boring. Warranted. How about mothers writing up their daughters? Actually, it's time for mothers to write of boring, complacent, unradicalized daughters. Let's hear it from the moms.

While I found this book frustrating, I found the feelings evoked by it definitely lesbian—that sort of consciousness of the characters who know that they love another woman (teacher and student, mother and daughter), but don't know what to do next. And never do. I had enough school girl crushes to be enthralled by the idea it was mutual, that getting the gothic governess's point of view was positively delicious. All this must be gleaned by indirection, though, since Elizabeth Rodney, the governess in UNLIT LAMP, is still to subtle for the depth of her passion. Quite understandable, nevertheless, but as I said: frustrating. Realistically frustrating on two levels: teacher/student relation and lesbian friendship. Same confluence: women loving women. Different confluence: mother/daughter vs. student/teacher. Conflicts in confluence. Elizabeth bridges both roles over time due to age differences evening out. And when the protagonist throws the change away, Elizabeth understands. Elizabeth and Joan are always on the verge of total fulfillment as lovers. But Jane doesn't yield to Rochester here,

because she has a mother in the attic. So no happy ending, just more of the same. Life without love.

Well, it's a rousing novel—it roused me mostly to warranted irritation, exasperation and, yes, admiration! Why? Well, I got the drift of the plot early on—and I'm familiar enough with Hall's WELL OF LONELINESS to know that to get off with less than suicide is an upbeat ending—it was down, down, dash it, no dawn in sight—but the awful suspense of the sameness of outcome—the false hopes, the real hopes, the cautious hopes—all come tumbling in every time. The loric with which the downfall falls into place, choice and chance, step by step, is incredible—like the unparalleled HOUSE OF MIRTH by Edith Wharton, published 10 or 20 years earlier.

Well, daughters will be daughters, and only daughters, after all, without the good sex of another woman. The novel had me identifying left and right, old and young. Yielding a terrifying image of a possible future, exercising always the easiest choice for the last pleasure.

Colorado Lesbian Denied Child Custody

On November 19, 1981, the Colorado Court of Appeals in M. v. M. affirmed the denial of custody to C.M., a lesbian mother. In its decision, the Court of Appeals relied on the finding of the trial court that the children could experience difficulties in their "peer relationships" if the mother's sexual preference became known.

Lambda and the attorney representing the mother had argued that the judge denied the mother custody solely because she was a lesbian. The case is critical since Colorado has adopted the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act which prohibits a court from considering the conduct of a parent which does not affect the parent's relationship with the child. The effect of the Colorado decision is that a parent's lesbianism can be considered even if there is no evidence to show that it has an actual impact upon the children.

The Colorado Court of Appeals, in earlier decisions, had granted custody to a transexual parent and to a parent in an adulterous relationship. "The failure to grant custody to C.M., particularly in light of prior Colorado law, is outrageous," commented Ms. Richter.

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Captain Kink

Captain Gets More Letters and Gives Advice

By CAPTAIN KINK

Name a Wood that doesn't float

Dear Captain Kink, thank you again for your advice in June. When all those cute gay men tried to get me pregnant, I never thought it would happen. Now Bonnie P.C. and I are expecting! If all goes well, you will get an invitation to the Christening in June. Love and kisses, Diabetic in a chocolate shop.

Dear Di, are you sure it's yours? I am glad to see that P. Charles did his duty and got it over with, but did he do it the Queen Elizabeth way? Or was it more like 401? Just remember, you don't Christen a baby like a ship.

Dear Captain Kink, is it proper to heat KY in a microwave? Bubbles and Scratches.

Dear Bubbles, only is no one is wearing it at the time.

Dear Captain Kink, my lover wants me to meet his parents, but I am terrified of that first moment. What should I do? Flamboyant.

Dear Flame, wave from the end of the driveway. If they don't throw anything it's safe to move up to the door.

Dear Captain Kink, what kind of oil goes well in a hot oil enema? Tex Fritter.

Dear Tex, it depends on whom is getting the lube job. If he is hung-up, try Puritan. Vegetarians prefer Sunflower, and oldsters benefit from Olay. Trekkies get off on Promise and the under 16 set should stick (?) to Johnson & Johnson's. Truckers get a slick out of 10-w-40 while JAPs will use nothing but Mink oil. Greeks use Olive unless Popeye is around. The possibilities are endless. Use your imagination.

Dear Captain Kin, What kind of wine should be served when eating out? Earnest and Julie.

Dear E&J, o, cum now. But seriously, it is really quite simple. A cock is beef so a good bordeaux is recommended. If he is into S&M, try Bully Hill Space Shuttle Rose. It will put him into orbit if you don't. If he is under 16, that is poultry, so stick with a sweet white like Widmer Lake Niagara. Don't spend too much, he won't appreciate it. A woman is seafood (tuna) so liebfraumilch would be most nice. If she happens to be black, go for a Zeller Schwartz Katze. Religious people might like a Blue Nun, but be careful, she might put a damper on the festivities. Bon appetit.

Dear Captain Kink, I know that at formal dinner parties one should never sit next to one's spouse, and that seating should be man-woman. At gay parties no one is married and usually only one sex is present. What is the proper seating arrangement? P. Reppie

Dear Rep, there are many tasteful ways of handling this situation, depending on how well you know the guests. Top bottom is always correct. Women can be seated Butch-fem, but men should be seated Butch-butth or Fem-fem if possible. Chicken-prune and Pisser-moaner are other viable alternatives. If it gets too confusing, just fuck it. Queens are so tacky you'll never please them no matter what you do.

Natalie

1981

Continued from page 1

THE BARS

If it was a confusing year for gay community organizers, it was even more confusing for those trying to make sense out of the city's bar scene.

The crowds came and went...descending on one bar for awhile so that every night was crowded to the walls...then deserting that spot for another the once most popular place in town could become an empty tomb overnight.

As the year began, Mac Arthur Park was still an in place to be seen. Within weeks, a closed sign was hung and a new bar, Me and My Arrow, saw people standing in line in the winter's cold just to get in.

Mean Alice's, sporting a vast dance floor that was filled with color and sound but no people, closed and went straight and then was born again as City Lights. And suddenly everyone was there, and no one was at Arrow.

Westbrook Station came...and wnet in two months. A corner spot where Buffalo businessmen once lunched before dancing women became the Bunkhouse, a bar in the leather-levi tradition. On Niagara Street, M.C. Compton's began a noble experiment to see if Buffalo could support a gay bar where both men and women were equally welcome.

And through it all rode the two eternal: Dominique's and the Villa Capri. Sometimes their business was up, sometimes it was down, but both showed a remarkable capacity to ride things through.

While other cities support numerous bars equally, Buffalo's gays travel like a herd. And no one, least of all the bar owners or the gays themselves, seemed to be able to answer the question of "Why?"

THE ORGANIZATIONS

It was a roller-coaster year for Buffalo's gay groups. At some points they reached such strengths it seemed there was little they could not accomplish, only to be facing a short time later the question of how they could survive.

Mattachine, which only two years ago was a weak and sickly organization, began a slow building process. Membership, and interest, began to soar. Fund-raisers actually raised funds because people attended events, and revenues from the Fifth Freedom put the group into a somewhat stable financial state.

The group shed some of its politics image...it began devoting one meeting a month to social events. A chance for gays simply to be with other gays. A true sense of comraderie grew among membes, but so did disputes over issues like the community center. By year's end, the group faced a leadership crisis that threatened the progress gained in the year.

At Gay Professionals, meeting attendance waxed and waned. Did the group need more organization, or did it need

less. Was it keeping to the original intent of being a social gathering for gay people with programs of information and interest...or should it go beyond that? had it become too large, or was it not large enough? The questions were asked but not answered, yet by year's end the group remained strong and still an important part of gay life in Buffalo.

Emma, the feminist bookstore and meeting place for many women's groups, faced a year of attacks via broken windows, and contemplated a change in location. Dignity, the gay Catholic organization, survived a leadership change and continued forward in providing religious fellowship for gays at a time when national rhetoric tried to make homosexuality the antithesis of a belief in God.

THE PAPER

As it should, the FIFTH FREEDOM reflected the ups and downs of the Buffalo Gay community like a mirror. It reflected the good times in its writing, style and appearance, and also the bad.

The paper united with other Gay publications across the nation by joining the Gay Press Association. It switched over to typesetting and the use of photographs and original drawings. There were new columns and contributors, new controversies within the pages, and most importantly, new advertisements from both Gay and straight businesses that allowed the improvements to be made.

There were interviews with celebrates like actress Pat Carroll and author Edmund White. There were film events and a review of Buffalo's gay bars and restaurants.

Publication dates were still erratic. The plea for volunteer help remained continuous. But the paper kept on.

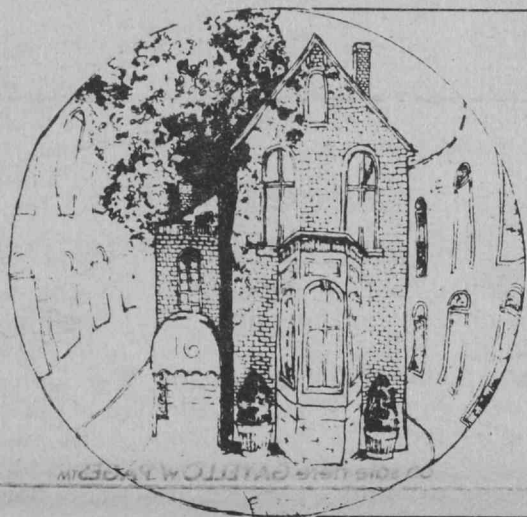
THE OTHER THINGS

It would be wrong to review the year without mentioning some special events. Some things just won't be forgotten.

Like Joseph's winning of the Gay Professional's "William Award"...John Otto's homophobic responses to gay callers on WGR Radio...The Courier-Express' front page profile of the Buffalo Gay community...the concert by Madeline Davis...Blueboy's opening in Niagara Falls...La Cage Aux Folles II...Joan Crawford Night...Hope's campaign for city council...the Toronto and Albany bath raids...the Captain's Christmas jokes and John Beard leaving town.

Review for yourself the past year too. How many times "in love?" How many tricks? How many nights in the bars? How many dollars spent? How many joint or bottles or popper? How many drinks? How many new friendships gained? How many lost? How many "found out" about you this year?

Among all reading this, the numbers must be staggering. And now 365 days to do it all over again. Maybe the same, but just maybe this time, a little bit different and a little bit better.



Allen Restaurant

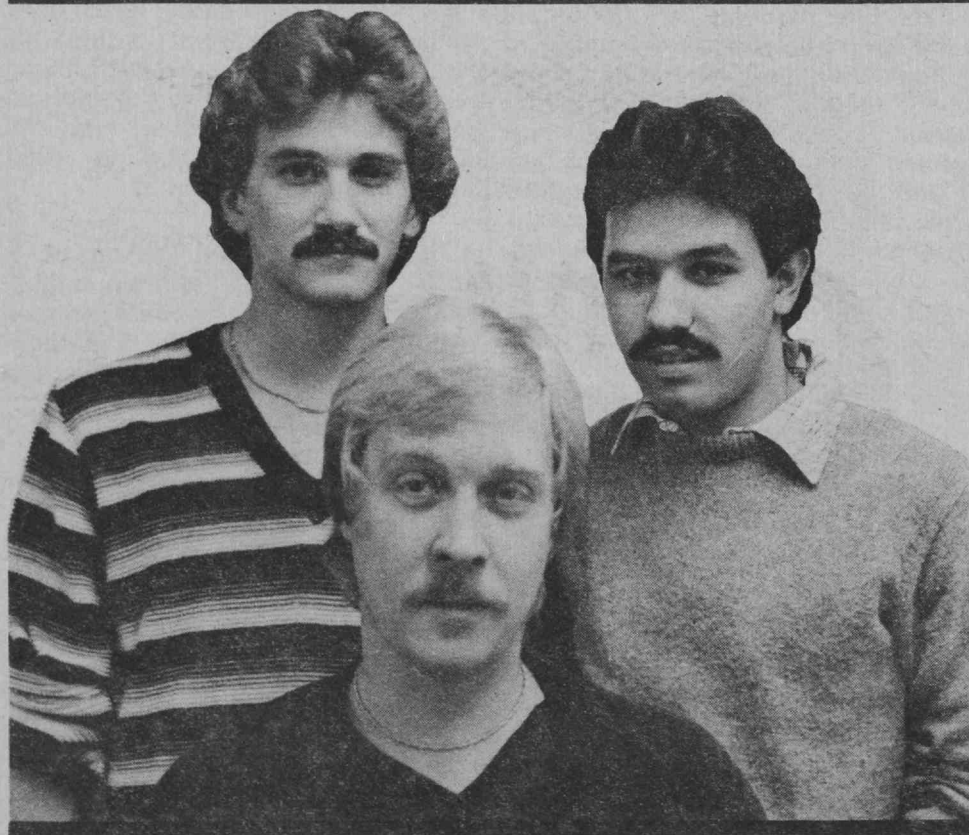
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Fifth Freedom Advisor — Continued from page 1

If that same young man had gone into a western-levi/leather type bar where there is a strong accent on being super masculine - he would then act super masculine or not fit the image of the bar.

We all need to be accepted and will do most anything to have people like and accept us, even if it is not what we really want. If we do it long enough we can even lose a grip on our identity as a man or a woman.

You, however, are condemning other people for not fitting YOUR ideals and images of how gay men and women should act and dress. The image you have created in your mind is a man who is not feminine, does not have limp wrists and all the other cliches that faggots do.

Because men and women are gay we have not fit into the mold set for us by the so-called straight world. Please don't condemn other gay men and women because they don't fit into YOUR mold.

Dear FFA,

My question is about a personal "hang-up" I have and it has cost me a lot of unhappiness, due to my not wanting or being able to do with someone I have sex with.

This problem concerns anal intercourse, rimming or anything having to do with the supposedly erogenous zone around the asshole. Why do so many people find this area so stimulating during sex? And, indeed, why do so many gays use that as an exclusive way of showing someone that they turn you on?

I enjoy oral sex, kissing and just being with someone that turns me on very much, but when someone wants me to fuck them or want to do it to me, I just get turned off and thats that.

It seems that we want to imitate what non-gays do with someone they love when they are in bed, or where ever. Why can't gay men be more original in their lovemaking? After all we always seem to think that a man can please a man better because he knows what turns himself on. And yet many men I ask do not do any anal stimulation when they masturbate.

I love oral sex and am told I am quite good, when they give me the chance to do it. Most of the men I am with either do not do me, or do it very badly. When will they learn that it ISN'T a "blow job" and it DOESN'T really mean it when you say, "I want you to suck me." I always look on it as making love to the other person and that makes it much more special to me.

Most of them are very rough or just not good at all when they do attempt to return my efforts. The rest just say "I don't do that!"

Why is it that so many gay men feel they can get fucked, get fellated, fuck you, but when it comes to going down on you or, heaven forbid, kissing you (ugh! they draw the line).

I hope you can help me out with this problem.

Just Asking

Dear Just Asking,

Almost from the day we are born more people are conditioned to be repulsed by anal functions or contact in any way with feces. (shit) A baby watches his parent show extreme reaction while changing a shitty diaper. As the child grows he is taught during toilet training that feces are dirty and disgusting and for health sake he should be sure and scrub his hands after a bowel movement or he'll catch a terrible illness.

How many times have you seen a baby or small child touch his or her anal area only to be slapped, punished or scolded for touching a "dirty" spot and then made the child wash their hands carefully.

As the child grows the hear about problems like hemorrhoids or constipa-

tion in hushed tones and most often with an air of embarrassed humor.

It is little wonder that by the time the child grows to adulthood, the anti-anal attitude has been firmly rooted in their mind.

Man people while having an anti-anal attitude are also stimulated by the feelings around the anus during a bowel movement. They may start to wonder that if it feels so good coming out, what would it feel like going in? This often leads to experimentation with digital entry, the use of various objects including dildos and butt plugs.

The next logical step for many is getting fucked.

For many this can be a very pleasurable experience if they can relax their hang ups from their childhood and of course, if their partner is competent. Many males find fucking or being fucked an exercise in submission or dominance and a very enjoyable experience.

Rimming presents special problems for many people. Old anti-anal attitudes, odor, and the very real possibility of illness are all problems which can stop someone from rimming another. (Rimming is using the tounge in and around the anus.)

Several ideas which may help in becoming more in touch with your own rectal area include gently exploring the area with your fingers. Feel the sensations as you gently slide one finger into your rectum. Try not to think about anything except what you are feeling in that part of your body.

Another thing you might try is a technique I had used on me by someone I knew several years ago. It may sound kinky or weird, but it does work. Force yourself to pick up and handle your own shit. Feel it, squeeze it in your hands, smell it and really take a good look at it. If you can get yourself to do this, you will quickly realize that the world did not end and while it was messy, it wasn't all that bad. Now wash your hands carefully and after drying them look carefully and you will see that they didn't turn brown. Put the clean fingers in your mouth and think about the fact that a few minutes ago these are the same fingers that were covered with shit. Doing this will not be easy to do but it will help to desensitize your anti-anal attitudes.

I didn't think we gays were trying to imitate non-gays in sex. Basically, if you think about it, sexual acts are very similar in both heterosexuals and homosexuals. From a purely physical standpoint, sucking, fucking, rimming, kissing, etc., do not require any feelings for your partner. If there is love or affection it only adds to the enjoyment both partners feel.

You can have sex with someone you love and it makes it extra special but you can't "make love." You don't make love, you make as much pleasure for the person you are in love with as possible.

Your comment about "blow jobs or I want you to suck me" are word games you are playing with yourself. Call it whatever you want but oral-genital sex is what it is.

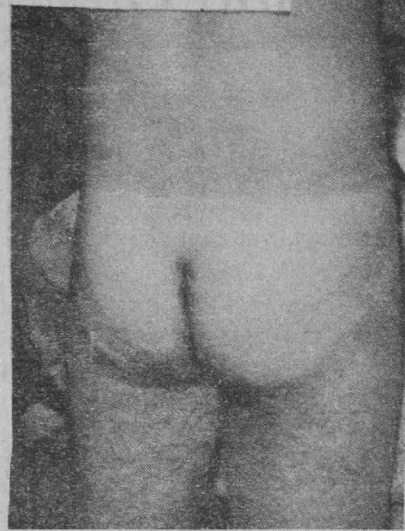
The partners who say "I don't do that" may be uptight about putting a penis into their mouth. The penis is also where urine is expelled by the body. The same hang ups about feces can also occur with urine.

Some men don't have oral-genital sex because only a faggott would put another mans cock into their mouth. These men are unsure of their own sexuality and as long as they don't do that, they are not queer.

Kissing for most American men is not masculine. We have been conditioned that men do NOT kiss each other. The idea of another mans saliva in their mouth is more than they can deal with.

We have a long way to go...

Buffalo Buns Contest Winner
Contestant No. 4



Contestant No. 4 proved out to be the buns that you could learn to love.

The Buffalo Buns Contest has been won by Contestant #4. He was a run away victor.

Second place went to #1 and third to number 3. There was a small vote, but those three contestants all had their groupies.

The winner wishes to remain anonymous, except to those that know him intimately. He will receive a Buns Calendar and book for his winning effort.

Congratulations to the winner.

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Community Center Calendar

Coalition Fundraisers
To Be Held This Month

Hello again,

We of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center Coalition (GLCCC) are writing you this letter for a couple of reasons. First of all, we would like to thank you for your support of the roller skating party of December 15th. It was both successful and a great time. Secondly, we would like very much for you to support our future events, and would like for you to become more deeply involved in the center.

The future events planned include, a cocktail party and buffet to be held in January, a Valentine's Day dance, two films which are co-sponsored by the Women's Liberation Union and GLCCC, an auction in March, and a concert by Maxine Feldman given as a benefit for us by the Women's Production Company. All events are given to benefit both the center and to provide social and educational happenings for the Gay and Lesbian community. Please come! A more detailed list is included in this mailing.

Another request...we are still looking for a space for the center, so please keep your eyes and ears open and if you find anything let us know at...GLCCC P.O. Box 1595, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y.

14205. Also, because the Westbrook Station has closed, our meetings will now be held at 91 14th Street, upstairs, every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Join us please! Your input will be welcome.

upcoming events...

PARTY!

(SATURDAY, JAN. 16) 7 P.M. COCKTAIL PARTY/BUFFET at the Wilcox Mansion, 641 Delaware Ave. **FOOD & BOOZE!** A delicious homemade buffet with Baked Ham, many fresh vegetable dishes, Appetizers, Caesar salad, Wine and Cheese, and Scrumptious Desserts! All for only \$5.00! and Drinks 50¢ donation. Come on over and see what GLCCC is all about. Representatives will be on hand to talk about the center. Tickets are available at: Emma, Cornucopia, Mattachine. Also at the door. Sponsored by GLCCC.

DANCE!

(FRIDAY, FEB., 12) 9 P.M. VALENTINES DAY SWEET HEART BALL at the Unitarian Church, Corner Elmwood & Ferry. Grab your sweetie! Put on your Dancing Shoes! Wine, Beer, Pop and Goodies available. Bring out your gowns and tuxes! We're gonna PARTY! Sponsored by GLCCC.

FILMS!

(Date To Be Announced) **(GREETINGS, FROM WASHINGTON D.C.)** Unitarian Church, - Vibrant, moving documentary film on the historic 1979 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. "Funny, Entertaining...Imaginative" SOHO News. **(ALSO! WITCHES & FAGGOTS & DYKES & POOFERS.)** A historical overview of the social and individual oppressions Lesbians and Gay men face when they become visible enough to threaten the status quo. "An admirable stirring film about courageous Australian gays. See it! It will make you angry and active."—London Gay News. Tickets available at the door. Sponsored by Buffalo Womens Liberation Union and GLCCC.

CONCERT!

(MARCH, Date to be Announced) The Buffalo Womens Production Company presents **(AN EVENING WITH MAXINE FELDMAN)** Benefit for GLCCC with reception following show. Watch for details!

AUCTION!

(SATURDAY, MARCH 6) 1-5 P.M. Unitarian Church. Auction to benefit a gay center. Sponsored by GLCCC.

To Contact The GLCCC:

Call: Emma's Bookstore 836-8970
Gay Hotline 881-5335

Or come to our General Meetings the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month at 91 14th St. upper. 7-9 P.M.

Thank you for your support. Let's make the center happen.

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**Bed-By-The-Bay:
California Comfort**

In the 1930's and into the 1940's, before the birth of superhighways and motels, accommodations in what were known as "Tourist homes" were an alternate to hotels. Many such lodgings were established within private homes along the roads of America, where the traveler obtained comfort and rest after a dusty day's driving along narrow-laned roads. In the morning, he was greeted with a steaming cup of coffee or breakfast, along with a host's eager narration of his town's points of interest.

In the 1980's, America is returning to that type of homey experience. It is now provided by what are called Bed-and-Breakfast Agencies. Bed-By-The-Bay is one such agency.

We have obtained lodgings within private Gay homes throughout the city of San Francisco. At affordable rates, we place visitors to San Francisco in accommodations where the guest enjoys the company of a fellow Gay person, along with the comforts of home. These comforts may include a Continental-style

breakfast, kitchen privileges, a private both, a television - all in quiet surroundings with amicable conversation. All of our accommodations are close to centers of Gay interest.

Should someone within your organization - or a friend - or an associate - wish detailed information on our services, please ask him/her to contact us at the above address or telephones. We have been told that we are the sole Gay bed-and-breakfast agency in America which operates in this fashion. We have dedicated ourselves to providing impeccable service to San Francisco's Gay visitors.

Bed-By-The-Bay responds to all inquiries by mail or telephone and screens hosts as well as guests, both as a security measure and as a means to matching guests with appropriate hosts and accommodations.

For complete information and full details, write: Bed-By-The-Bay, P.O. Box 902, Sausalito, California 94966. Or telephone: 415-383-7430; 415-453-6405; or 415-334-7262.

**Our Cover:
Our Covers**

Our cover this month is a collage of all the covers for 1981.

JANUARY: A collage of covers from 1980.

FEBRUARY: Valentine's Day the Gay Way. Flowers by Hodge-Buning. Hands by some of Buffalo's Gays.

MARCH: Pictures of Buffalo's gay bars and the start of a series telling about them. Two have gone and other changes have taken place since then.

APRIL: Man To Man is published; Edmund White visits Buffalo; and THE FIFTH FREEDOM goes to typesetting for the first time.

MAY: Plans for Gay Pride Fest activities are announced. Boat rides and much more.

JUNE: Gay Pride Fest '81 is announced with a copy of the t-shirt logo.

JULY: A review of Gay Pride Fest '81. Also views of the march in New York City.

AUGUST: A look at what Buffalo's future holds for its gays; the new Village People; and gays in the Celluloid Closet.

SEPTEMBER: Mattachine files a Federal lawsuit challenging New York state's loitering statue; the Allen Restaurants expansion.

OCTOBER: The Gay Hotline and how it serves the community.

NOVEMBER: Exclusive interview with Pat Carroll during her engagement at Studio Arena as Gertrude Stein.

DECEMBER: Santa is back in his L&L outfit and an update on our lawsuits.

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The Aural Column

The Best Way To Compare Speakers

BY JOE SCHUDER, JR.

A few issues ago, I promised to explain the best way to audition speakers. If you are looking to upgrade your stereo system, a well made speaker change will make the most dramatic improvement.

I will not be addressing the basics of speaker auditioning here: You should pick up the "Speaker Issue" of one of the popular publications such as Stereo Review, High Fidelity or Audio. The advice you find there about cabinet size and design, number and type of drivers, equality of volume level, placement and so forth comprises the standard methodology you should master in order to make an intelligent choice.

Rather, I shall give you ideas and tactics which will result in a fun outing that any member of the Creative Minority can be proud of.

THE GOAL

Get the largest speaker systems you can afford. Spend what you planned to and then more. If you planned to spend \$1000, go ahead. Then borrow another grand and do the job right. Credit is expensive today, but it will be more expensive later on, especially relative to your actual income in another year or two.

THE SHOWROOM

Before you even turn the showroom system on, look at the room itself. Are its dimensions proportionate to your room at home? Quietly walk around the room and listen to it. Is it acoustically more live or dead than yours?

You can size up a room's character in a few simple moves. How much reverberation is there when you snap your fingers or clap your hands? In a quiet room there is a faint rushing air sound you can augment by making short sniffling sounds. Is this sound velvety (dead acoustics), or more hollow sounding (live acoustics)? The salesman may look strangely at you as you go through this process. If he is goo, he will know exactly what you are about and will leave you alone.

Now you know what the showroom sounds like. You can, in comparing its sound to that of yours, make a mental note that is a Judy Collins record sounds more hooty on one speaker than another, it may be even more so if your listening room is livelier than this showroom.

THE SHOWROOM EQUIPMENT

You are now ready to power up the showroom system. By the way, be sure to take notice of how much power is used when doing the listening tests. Those AR-9's you fell in love with in the store may be a disappointment at home when your little miracle Pioneer receiver's power supply goes up in smoke trying to reproduce those famous Telarc "1812 Overture" cannon shots.

The first speaker system you should listen to is the best in the store. Even if it is way out of line for cost or size reasons, it will give you a standard against which you should judge.

Now pit the "Best Speakers" against a pair of Advent model 5002's. Since it is more likely that you have heard these in someone's home than any other, you should touch base here. I always do this but then I have been happily living with a set of Double Advents for years now. Advents at Stereo Chamber will sound different that they will at Stereo Plus, but you will be able to use that "Advent Sound" as a reference point in getting used to the acoustic character of your surroundings.

THE TEST RECORDINGS

Now that the showroom and its equipment are out of the way, select a few test records. Do not take tapes. They contain hiss which will get in the way when testing high frequency response.

Two or three of your own demonstration records will do. They should be the ones you are intimately familiar with because you have listened hard to the, concentrating on detail. Good. All that studying at home will pay off now as you pick out this detail or that when switching between two speakers.

In addition to a couple blockbuster albums, one classical and one pop, I always take along one of my Herbie Mann albums just for fun. After all, why not take a break from all that sweat-producing listening to enjoy "The Turtle and The Frog?" This test, though less cerebral than analytically concentrated listening, lets you see which speakers produce a more jovial sound. This is an important point. You will live with your speakers for a long time. They should be able to laugh and cry with you.

I also take along a well cared for but old copy of Dukak's "Symphony From The New World" by the Chicago with Fritz Reiner conducting. It was produced and released in 1958. Hardly the latest word in high technology but I know it well. It is a good indicator of whether or not the speakers in question can reproduce that gorgeously airy feeling so characteristic of RCA's earliest stereo recordings.

THE LISTENING SESSION

Okay, roll up your sleeves, roll down your turtleneck and go to work. Ask the salesperson to play a few systems in your price range. Compare them to the "Best Speakers" and to the 5002's for a few minutes as you listen to your test records for flattest and most extended frequency response. Do not press that little A - B comparison pushbutton most stores use these days too fast between the speakers. That comes later. Just try to get a relative lay of the acoustic land.

You will probably find that most speakers costing more than the Advents are slightly less hollow sounding. They will also sound less deep in the bass than the "Best Speakers" and will be less able to separate individual instruments. This is to be expected. Clarity of inner voice detail is the name of the game more than any other characteristic when you listen to any "Best Speaker."

After the Advents-versus-"Best Speakers"-versus-speakers-under-test comparison is done, choose the two sample speakers you like most.

Now the real refining begins. Listen to those sections of your test records that are the most difficult to reproduce. A difficult passage is likely to be no more than one half to two minutes in length. Listen to these passages over and over, switching rapidly between the two competing models. The strings on model A might be clearer, but the bass on model B may be more to your liking.

Make note of these points. Having picked your favorite, go on to compare it in the same manner to another model. The audible differences will be small and the price probably will not. Which do you prefer? Why? Is it worth extra dollars? Have you got them to spend?

In doing this whirlwind testing, be wary of a speaker that sounds like it has more treble response. It may not be more extended, just peaked in the 14,000 Hz range. Check this point carefully, listening for brass bite and high harmonic clarity on massed strings. The

speaker with better response is the one which gives the impression that the strings are individual instruments instead of being squeezed together. The sound will have more texture.

COME UP FOR AIR

After about an hour of this intense activity both you and the salesperson will be bushed - this is a tremendous mental exercise. Put on your Herbie Mann record and turn the volume down to a point where you both can converse comfortably. Ask him which speakers he likes. After all, he listens for a living. He has got to have some good insights. Go back to concentrating on Herbie Mann. Are those happy feet in his Gucci's?

Walk around the room keeping your head turned toward the stereo stage. The stereo image should be uniform if the system's dispersion is good. Walk right up to one of the speakers, get down to its level and position your ear eight inches from its grillcloth. Close your eyes. Do you hear an amalgam of sound that your brain has to work at to recognize or do you hear music?

Go to the back of the room and turn away from the stereo stage. Is the music still pleasant? Does it seem like these speakers and you can co-exist for a long time no matter how near or far away from each other you are?

MAKING A CHOICE

Having now spent nearly two hours, you may actually have a headache. But you probably have come up with your winner. Compare these speakers now to the Advents and the "Best Speakers." They probably will sound better than the Advents, but you will still be able to appreciate the Advents for the true value they are. In comparison to the "Best Speakers" your choice will be tame. But you will be surprised to learn how many of their good qualities your final choice will have.

Don't believe this? Go back to your second choice and see how they now sound quite like trash when compared to the "Best Speakers." Now compare your first choice to the "Best Speakers." Finally, compare your winners to the runners up. Well?

One final word. Your final choice may very well be the system for you, but do not buy it right away. Come back in a day or two and do the final checks again when you are fresh. Any good dealer will understand this and will bend over backwards to accommodate you.

You should never be in a hurry to purchase speakers. You will find that the experimental process itself is most rewarding. Enjoy it for the mental, educational exercise it is. It is, for me, one of the nicest ways to spend a Saturday afternoon or an early evening.

Make the purchase, take your speakers home, set them up and take a shower. Then settle in to enjoy what will be a most rewarding and lasting love affair.

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How Does Your Garden Grow

Gardening Glossary Helps Those Who Are Tongue Tied ??

By **BILL HARDY**

Greetings and a justifiable juggernaut of a January to you all. Welcome to 1982. I hope your New Years Eve was a smashing success. If you can't remember, then you obviously were successfully smashed.

For those of you who had parties, I sincerely hope your guests did not dump their partially finished drinks into your houseplants. Talk about being potted!

Why, there is nothing worse than a teetering torch lily. (One never knows where that red hot poker will end up.) An inebriate ivy or a groping Gesneriad is just too much to take. And an overly oral Orchid. Well, really!

But alas, the event has come and gone, and here we are in the depths of frozen winter, and a good time I think for a session on proper pronunciation of some always mispronounced words.

Out at the nursery, which by the way is pronounced like "Many" not "mini" or "meenie" or "mennen" even though it is spelled "Menne," we get our full share of mispronunciations.

One of the most popular mispronounced words in the houseplant department is terrarium. Usually it is put forth like this. "What plants would do well in my teranium?" It is properly pronounced ter-rare-ree-um.

In the spring and summer we always get asked if we have any "hygeraniums." At first I thought they were mispronounced geraniums, but when I would show the ever popular red bedding plant, they'd say, "No. No. You know. It gets big white flower clusters on it in July and August, and lives from year to year."

"You mean hydrangea," I say.

"Whatever," they say.

So the next time I got a hygeranium question, I immediately showed them the hydrangeas. "No. No." they said. "You know Hygeranium. The ever popular red bedding plant." Oh well.

Asparagus fern. Yes this is another one that just invites mispronunciation when its botanical name is used. It usually comes out as "spring-jury" when actually it is sprengeri or "spreng-er-eye."

Vinca vine or "Ving-ka" usually as "Vinsa."

I've heard philodendrons pronounced as "fly-o-den-dron-iums."

One of the best was one woman who was looking over the bonsai trees and trying to pronounce the botanical names out loud. The botanical name for pine is "pinus," pronounced "pine-us." The woman continued reading aloud, and finally came to the pines, reading out "penis" rather than "pinus." Imagine her reaction when she came upon the variety "gigantica."

"Penis gigantica?" she asked herself aloud. Twice.

Whether you are pronouncing correctly or not, the main thing is their care. Right now, with the Sahara like conditions that prevail in most homes and apartments, your mister bottle should be in full use.

Cactus and succulents need watering only once or twice a month until March, but do need as much light as possible, preferably a southern exposure in these darkish days of Western New York Winter.

So until next month practice your pronunciation, cuddle up with someone nice and warm on a frosty night, and oh yes, mist, mist, mist.

Places of Interest Given Library Approval

Places of Interest (gay map guide USA/Canada) and its companion, Places of Interest to Women, were described as "amazingly thorough" and "recommended for all but the smallest libraries" by Library Journal in its review in the October 15, 1981 issue.

Library Journal, whose reviews heavily influence the choices made by public library acquisition departments, became the first non-gay publication ever to review a gay guide book.

The publisher of Places of Interest, Marianne Ferrari, reports that orders from libraries throughout the nation have been arriving daily since the review appeared. Libraries that have ordered the books include the public libraries of Dayton (Ohio), Providence (Rhode Island), Bridgeport (Connecticut), and Glen Ellyn (Illinois) and the college libraries at Radcliffe College and Indiana University.

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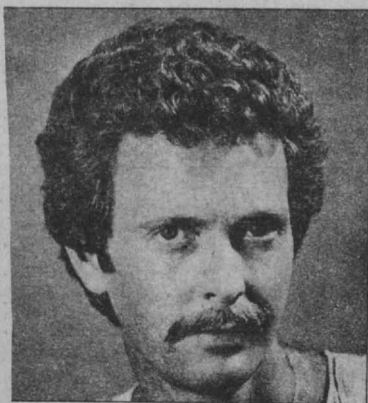
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PUBLICATIONS

THE FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205. Tel: 881-5335. Volunteers needed to work on the paper, including writers, artists, graphics people and photographers. Press releases, public notices and articles for publication may be submitted to the address above. Deadline the 20th of the month. Published the first week of each month. Advertising rates on request.

ORGANIZATIONS

MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC., P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205. Tel. 881-5335. Meetings held the first and third Sundays of each month at the Unitarian Universalist Church, Elmwood at West Ferry. Pot Luck supper at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. All welcome.

GAY PROFESSIONALS, (GP), P.O. Box 264. Buffalo, N.Y. 14209. Tel. Tom Hammond, 842-2750. An organization to provide support for gay people in the professions and those who seek a confidential place to meet new friends. Open to all gay men and women.

THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER COALITION (GLCCC), P.O. Box 1595, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Presently meeting at 91 14th St. Upstairs. Meetings from 7-9 p.m. Write for more info or to get on our mailing list.

GAY RIGHTS FOR OLDER WOMEN (GROW), Tel. 836-8970. Contact EMMA Bookstore at the number above for further information.

A.A. FOR GAY MEN AND WOMEN, Tel. 853-0388. Meets twice-a-week: Wednesday at 8:30 p.m., Shoreline Apts., 210 Niagara; Fridays, 8:30 p.m., Ascension Church, corner Linwood and North. For phone contact, call number above and ask for a member of the gay group, or write: Open Mind Group, P.O. Box 395, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205.

GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (GPA), 311 Squire Hall, State University of New York at Buffalo, 3435 Main St. Office hours Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sponsors coffee house each Friday at 9 p.m. in 107 Townsend Hall (when school is in session.) Formerly Gay Liberation Front (GLF).

STUDENT ASSOCIATION FOR GAY EXPRESSION (SAGE), 118 Cassety Hall, State University College at Buffalo, 1300 Elmwood Ave. Tel. 878-6316. Organization for gay men and Lesbians at Buffalo State College. Office hours Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Business meetings Friday 3 to 4 p.m. Social hour, Tuesday 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.

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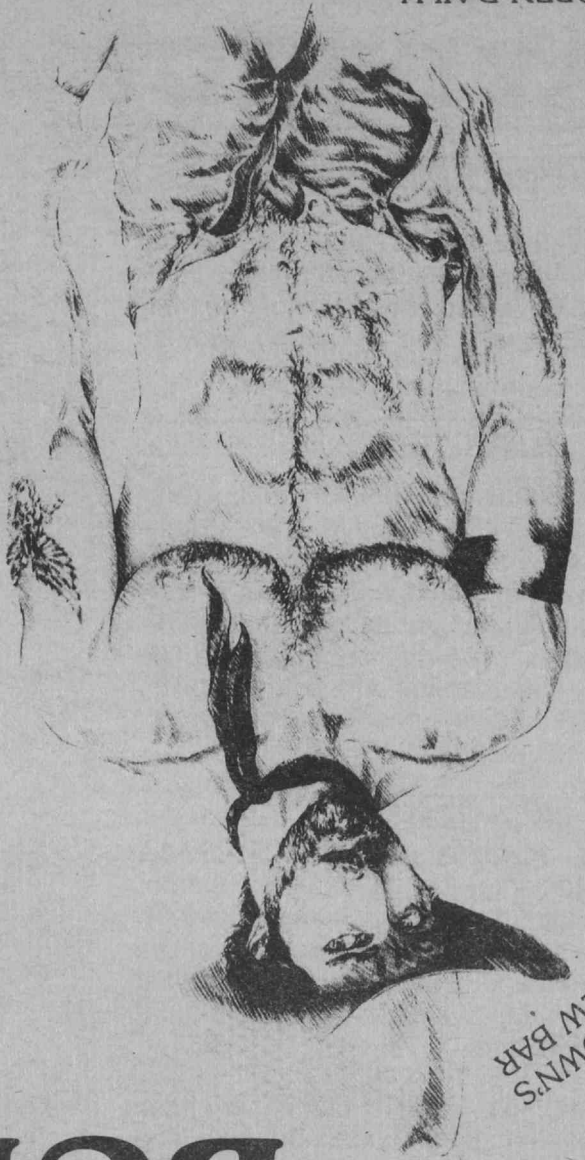
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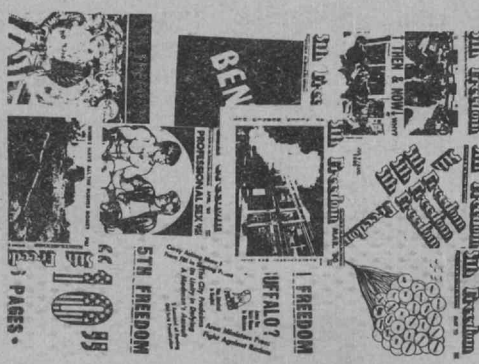
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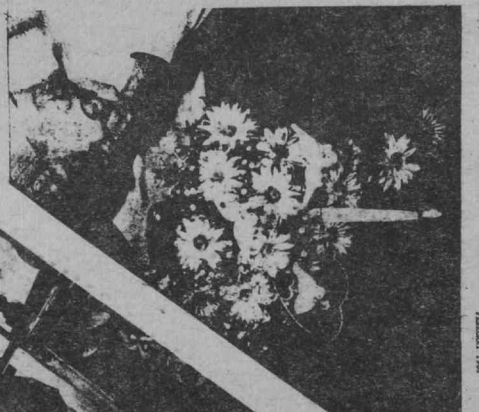
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